



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date: March 17th, 2021

Time: 7:15PM

Location: Via Zoom conference

Attendees: *Executive committee:* Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnsin, Doug Mayo-Wells, Doug Greenfield, Scott Smith, Adam MacNeil, Muris Kobaslija

Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz (Sr Transportation Planner)

Members of the public: Brian Ristuccia, Petru Sofio, Stefan Miller, Linda Epstein, Brendan Mueller

1. Introductions, Ground rules

Meeting opens with review of emergency remote public meeting guidance consistent with Governor Baker's executive order of March 12th, 2020: The Governor's order suspends the requirement of Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a public physical accessible location. Public meetings may meet entirely remotely as long as the public can access the meeting.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-suspending-certain-provision-of-open-meeting-law/download>

The meeting is being recorded for the purposes of verifying the minutes; and the recording will be deleted after the minutes are approved.

2. Approval of minutes from Tri-Town Bikeway Meeting

Approved. Other minutes held for next meeting.

3. Report from COBWEB Officer (Cops on Bicycles with Education for Bicyclists)

None.

4. TAC report

(Transportation Advisory Committee)

S. Smith: TAC met last week.

- Not much bicycling stuff. Looking for money for signal at Park Ave & Appleton. Looking at walking/biking conditions at Dallin and Thompson schools. Discussed the proposed housing development off Mass Ave-near Ryder, Forest - near Schwamb Mill.

5. Issues at Mass/Mystic/Bikeway intersection

Presentation by Brian Ristuccia and Petru Sofio.

Current conditions - confusion at traffic lights, visibility of bike symbol not good, bike box is small.

Suggestions - replace ball lights with up arrows for going straight thru, move bike signal, give a lead interval to allow bikes a head start from intersection. extending bike box over left lane, louvered bike signal westbound.

Reasons - Right hook conflicts are common, bike box gets very crowded at peak times. Not enough time for bikes to settle into traveling before cars overtake them. Some drivers are confused about right turns, others feign confusion to go through.

These are not new ideas - ABAC has made some of these suggestions before.

Comments:

Scott - MUTCD not clear about standards for the arrows which is probably why they haven't changed. Advanced signal may be annoying when no bikes are there. Brian - gridsmaps can detect bikes in box

Daniel - getting DPW's attention would be challenging with competing priorities. They don't like to revisit projects that they consider done. Committee or Community needs to call it to their attention why this is a problem. Hurdles - justification, cost. May need more data about crashes to make a case-figure out if the illegal turns are the cause of these.

Brian - would like to see another rec from the Committee on this.

Doug Mayo-Wells - similar situation in Kendall (Gaileo Galilei Way) where green ball lights were replaced with straight arrows and it seems safer now. Maybe Cambridge bike committee has stats on how those decision were made and what has improved.

Muris - cargo bike does not fit well in box. Lead time would be good - he has broken a chain by trying to get going too fast.

Jack - Police might be an ally?

Next steps - write to DPW that we are still hearing issues with this intersection, going back to previous conversation with them. Scott will check MUTCD guidelines, Doug M-W will reach out to Cambridge for data.

6. Update on the Design Review Committee for Mass Ave/Appleton

First meeting has been scheduled. Will be an overview/talk about existing conditions and design principles (what elements should be included) Petru and Brian - left turn solution not good in proposals. Adam MacNeil is also not impressed with the redesigns. Lights are run frequently. Linda - late afternoon sun is an issue. Daniel - police do consider this a priority. Look at what we can do in the short term to make it less dangerous.

7. Lake Street Crossing Video Update

Nothing has happened. We may want to see what happens with Hardy opening.

8. General updates from Planning Department

MBTA Forging Ahead - Bus routes have been changed.

Bike Friendly Application - Public survey now open until 3/31 - 204 responses so far. Awards announced in May.

BlueBikes - Redeployment in a few weeks for on-street stations. They want to get Arlington before Boston's stations are redeployed. Additional info at next mtg.

Eco-Counter - Started reporting 0 counts - dead battery, MassDOT will pay to replace, may be a few weeks without counts.

Chestnut St/Terrace - TAC discussions about dangerous crossing.

MUTCD Update - Federal standard used in decision making. comments on proposed changes due May 14. Changes are car- (especially AV) centric, speed limit changes don't go far enough. More comments would be good. piggy-back on other's comments
<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FHWA-2020-0001/document>

Do we want to write a committee letter on this for next meeting? Daniel will send more information.

9. Tri Town Meeting February 24th. Review and future meetings

Main news is that final plans for Reformatory Branch trail to Concord line were shown by Bedford. They will look into getting Concord to extend it. Concord may be invited to next one.

10. Tales from the Bikeway, matters arising from the Bikeway e.g. art installations, encroachment and knotweed

Guerilla art installation at Park Ave Bridge - looking at ways to make these legitimate - there is a process for this - concerns from a resident about safety.

Knotweed encroachment is a problem again. Muzzioli encroachments. They started building a fence on MBTA land - paused because the owner is out of town. Doug G - encroachments by trucks are also common or right of way, Daniel - Ryder is a private way so it causes unique issues. This is also the access point for the new housing development.

11. Other business

Christopher - Community Ed looking to do classes on bike safety and maintenance, looking for alternates to MassBike classes which are expensive - any ideas? No suggestions, maybe put out to larger ABAC list.

New editions of Bikeway maps available, we may need to pay for copies. Grant that we have for education might pay for it. We don't have a price on them yet.

Petru will email Christopher about some issues at Lake St crossing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.